

## SUMMARY

This report contains Vermont census counts of population for 2000, and population estimates for 2002 and 2003. Population totals for counties and towns are presented (Tables 2 and 3, Figures 2 and 4). A listing of towns ranked in order of decreasing 2003 population is provided (Table 4). In addition, the age-sex distributions for the state and counties are given (Tables 5,6). Historical population data for Vermont counties are provided in Table 1. Housing unit estimates are no longer available in this report.

The population of Vermont was estimated to be 619,116 on July 1, 2003 (Table 1), up from the census count of 608,827 on April 1, 2000. This is an increase of 10,289 people, or 1.7 percent from the census. Net migration in Vermont from 2000 to 2003 indicates an overall in-migration of 5,815 people (Table 2). Net migration is calculated as the difference between population change and natural increase (births minus deaths). The highest growth rates occurred in Grand Isle, Lamoille and Franklin Counties (Table 2, Figure 3). In Grand Isle County the large percentage increase is in part a reflection of the small population. Rutland County showed the slowest growth, increasing just 0.2 percent since 2000.

Of the 255 towns and cities in Vermont, eight had total populations that exceeded 10,000 (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 2). These eight places accounted for 23.7 percent of the state's population. Ninety-four towns had resident populations less than 1,000 people, and three unorganized places in Essex County had no permanent residents (Avery's Gore, Lewis and Warner's Grant). Due to limitations in the data available for many towns, estimates may vary substantially from year to year. Observing the population trend for several years gives sense of the true population picture.

The fastest growing segment of the Vermont population is the 45-64 year old age group (Figure 5, Table 5). There has been a slight decline since the Census in the under 15 population, as well as in the 25-39 age group.

Population estimates by race and ethnicity for Vermont for 2003 are included in tables 7 and 8. These estimates are for the race and ethnicity categories used prior to the 2000 Census. Estimates utilizing the Census 2000 race and ethnicity categories are available from the US Census Bureau at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

The 2002 population estimates were produced for the Vermont Department of Health by Claritas, Inc. The 2003 estimates are a slight modification of estimates produced for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) by the United States Census Bureau. It is expected that the modified Census/NCHS estimates will be used in future years. An explanation of the modifications made to the Census/NCHS estimates, as well as the rationale for the change of data source from 2002 to 2003 is given in the appendix.